GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4729
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2007
EXPLOITATION OF COAL AND COAL BED METHANE
Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting was held between the Ministry of Coal and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas on exploitation of Coal and Coal Bed Methane(CBM);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken therein;

(c) whether any action has been initiated to develop a road map for harmonious exploitation of Coal and CBM in areas where the respective blocks overlap; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) to (d): The issue related to simultaneous exploitation of coal and coal bed methane(CBM) in the same area has been discussed by Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas along with other concerned agencies.

In order to address the issues of simultaneous coal mining and CBM operations an Expert Committee has been constituted in March' 07 under the Chairmanship of Adviser(Projects), Ministry of Coal with representatives of Directorate General Hydrocarbons (DSH), Oil Industry Safety Directorate(OISD), Central Mine Planning and Design Institute(CMPDI), Directorate General of Mine Safety(DGMS) and Coal Controller as an invitee with a Deputy Secretary of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas as Member Secretary. The issues for consideration/Terms of reference by the Expert Committee are as under:-

a) The techno-feasibility of producing CBM along with coal mining without any compromise to safety and technological problems.

b) Coordination arrangements, sharing arrangements and consultation and information exchange mechanism between the CBM and coal mining operator.

c) Pattern of inter-face between these two different activities with regard to legal, fiscal and technological aspects.

d) Regulatory framework for environmental issues for simultaneous production of coal and CBM.

e) Clearly demarcate rights and obligations of coal and mining operators and CBM operators to avoid/minimize any dispute during simultaneous operations.

f) Any other matter deemed fit for examination by the committee.

The Committee deliberated on the issues in three meetings held so far and the Committee is to submit its report within sixty days.